

INTERNET GAMBLING PROHIBITION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4411. Clearly, gambling on the internet has become an increasingly popular activity and lucrative business. It is estimated that the internet gambling market now exceeds \$12 billion, and about \$6 billion comes from U.S. bettors. It is estimated that there are now over 2,000 gambling websites. But is internet gambling a net plus or minus for society? That is the question that I hoped the hearings held by the Judiciary Committee on this legislation would answer. Regrettably, my questions have not been answered satisfactorily. Therefore, I cannot support the bill.

My concerns are four-fold.

First, this legislation attempts to clarify the Wire Act to prohibit not only sports betting, but traditional gambling such as online poker. The bill also attempts to update the Wire Act to cover more Internet technologies, such as wireless infrastructures that increasingly make up the Internet. My concerns here Mr. Speaker is that factual record regarding the need for amending the Wire Act has not been demonstrated and, more important, we did not have the benefit of the views of senior prosecutors and Justice Department officials on the necessity of amending the Wire Act. I note that the DOJ representative who appeared before the subcommittee, Mr. Bruce Orr, is not a presidential appointee, was not authorized to speak for the Administration, and did not seem deeply immersed in the provisions of the bill. This lack of solid legislative-executive dialectic is sufficient in itself to hold the bill in subcommittee until a more reliable factual record is developed.

Second, I am also concerned that the carve-out for internet gambling on horseracing will place the United States at risk of being found in violation of trade laws by the World Trade Organization. The bill, as written, can be arguably characterized as disadvantaging European and Australian based internet gaming companies who would be excluded from the American market, while their American counterparts would not be excluded. Should the United States be found to have committed a trade violation, I am concerned that Europe and Australia will retaliate against American goods and services.

Third, Mr. Speaker I was very impressed with the testimony of Mr. Sam Vallandingham, Vice President, First State Bank, who testified on behalf of small independent community banks. Mr. Vallandingham testified before the Judiciary Committee, and I daresay with great knowledge and conviction, that financial institutions, especially relatively small ones like the ones he represents, to identify, monitor, and track internet gambling transactions of its account holders. Mr. Vallandingham informed the subcommittee that financial institutions simply did not possess the sophisticated detection technology that could make it conceivable to identify problematic accounts. Since the risk of violation of this bill is great (violation carries

penal sanctions), it does not appear wise or prudent to impose this burden on small financial institutions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not point an irony. Instead of providing minors with greater protections, this legislation threatens to make it much easier for minors to utilize the services of online gambling companies that operate across State lines. In addition, the legislation has the potential to generate a substantial increase in acts of money laundering and undoubtedly will expose various banks and Internet service providers to excessive liability and burdensome regulations.

According to the bill's lead sponsor, the gentleman from Virginia, one of the primary purposes behind the introduction of the bill was to stop online gambling from occurring. However, in its current form, the legislation only prohibits certain forms of online gambling while expressly permitting several other forms to proceed unfettered. Interestingly enough, these "special interest carve-outs" were the main focal point of a recent article in The Hill newspaper.

In that article, the key provisions in this bill were compared to a similar Internet gambling bill that had been introduced by the gentleman from Virginia and defeated in a previous Congress. The article determined that:

... The same Internet gambling legislation Abramoff fought so hard to defeat on behalf of a client that helped states conduct lotteries over the Internet now includes an exemption to protect those lotteries.

The article went on to point out that in addition to the exemption for lotteries, the bill also included language to protect wagering on interstate pari-mutuel betting on horse races from the scope of the bill's ban.

These blanket exemptions are obviously the byproduct of powerful gambling interests and can be directly traced back to three particular provisions of the bill—sections 3, 5, and 6. Section 3, for example, includes language which expressly exempts gambling on intra-state sanctioned activities, such as lotteries.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, we can do better than what is reflected in this legislation. A bad bill is worse than no bill at all. We should retain the bill and continue working to improve it, if we can.

TRIBUTE TO NASA ON SPACE SHUTTLE "DISCOVERY" MISSION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution commending the people of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the latest mission of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Successfully launched on July 4 this mission, known as STS-121, marks the second mission on the Return to Flight sequence. STS-121 originally was scheduled to perform just two space walks. However, due to the overall success of the launch, the mission was extended from 12 to 13 days, allowing for an additional space walk.

Among the other tasks that will be preformed on this mission are tests of shuttle

safety improvements to build on findings from *Discovery's* flight last year, including a redesign of the shuttle's external tank's foam insulation, in-flight inspection of the shuttle's heat shield, improved imagery during launch and the ability to launch a shuttle rescue mission. The External Tank, which underwent work prior to the mission to reduce foam loss, performed well this time especially early in the flight when a light weight piece of foam could severely damage the tile or wing leading edge, but nothing like that happened this time. The five instances of foam loss that were experienced all occurred after the critical release time. The largest foam loss on the mission, which occurred in front of one of the ice/frost ramps on the external tank, was calculated to be .055 pounds. The mass limit in that area is .25 pounds, meaning that the loss was not even a quarter of the way to the limit. NASA is very pleased with the performance of the tank, as it is a great improvement from last year's STS-114 mission.

The STS-121 mission will also bolster the International Space Station by making a key repair and delivering more than 28,000 pounds of equipment and supplies, as well as adding a third crew member to the Space Station.

STS-121 is NASA's most photographed mission in shuttle history as more than 100 high definition, digital, video, and film cameras are helping to assess whether any debris comes off the external tank during the shuttle's launch, while four new video added to the solid rocket boosters.

Mr. Speaker, the success of STS-121 is a tribute to the skills and dedication of all NASA employees, especially the Space Shuttle *Discovery's* crew of Colonel Steve Lindsey; Commander Mark Kelly; Piers Sellers, PhD; Lt. Colonel Mike Fossum; Commander Lisa Nowak; Stephanie Wilson; and Thomas Reiter.

What philosopher Ayn Rand wrote of the moon landing in 1969 applies to the STS-121 and all of NASA's missions: "Think of what was required to achieve that mission: think of the unifying effort; the merciless discipline; the courage; the responsibility of relying on one's judgment; the days, nights and years of unswerving dedication to a goal; the tension of the unbroken maintenance of a full, clear mental focus; and the honesty. It took the highest, sustained acts of virtue to create in reality what had only been dreamt of for millennia." I encourage all of my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commending NASA for completing STS-121 mission, and all of NASA's work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Numbers 358 and 359.

Rollcall vote Number 358 was on agreeing to H.R. 2563, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote Number 359 was on agreeing to the H.R. 5061, the Paint Bank and Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

NEWTON BOARD SPEAKS OUT AGAINST GENOCIDE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Newton, on June 27th, passed a powerfully worded and forcefully argued resolution on the Darfur genocide. I know that in passing this resolution the Board spoke for the overwhelming majority of the citizens of Newton, and I am pleased that I was able to report to them that I am doing everything I can as a Member of Congress to act in accordance with the policy that they advocate here.

Mr. Speaker, because the problem of genocidal practices in Darfur remains unresolved, it is important for us to continue to focus our efforts on the need for action to save people now in Darfur from being victims of genocide, even as we grieve for those who have already been victims.

Mr. Speaker, in that spirit I ask that the resolution from the Newton Board of Aldermen be printed here.

RESOLUTION ON DARFUR GENOCIDE

Whereas, the government of Sudan has engaged in a policy of genocide against its own black African population in Darfur through use of its military and through sponsorship of attacks by armed Arab militias known as the janjaweed; and

Whereas, the janjaweed and military of the Sudanese government are responsible for bombing villages and hospitals, gang-raping civilians, summarily executing throngs of black Darfurians, using forced starvation as a weapon of war, and impeding access of humanitarian aid to the 50% of Darfurians that are now reliant on assistance; and

Whereas, the Sudanese government is responsible for the death of 400,000 Darfurians and displacement of 2.5 million more; and

Whereas, in September 2004, U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, declared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that the Sudanese government and the Sudanese government-sponsored janjaweed have committed genocide; and

Whereas, both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate have declared, by unanimous votes, that the Sudanese regime of dictator Omar al-Bashir is committing genocide; and

Whereas, international companies, by conducting business operations in Sudan, bring direct foreign investment dollars to Khartoum and provide both moral and political cover to the Sudanese regime; and

Whereas Khartoum has funneled the vast majority of direct foreign investment into military expenditures used to perpetuate the genocide while neglecting needed development projects in the Darfur region; and

Whereas, the government of Sudan has a history of remedying egregious behavior in response to economic pressure; and

Whereas, the policy and practice of genocide is abhorrent to the moral and political values of the members of the residents of the City of Newton, the people of the United

States, and, indeed, democratic and free societies everywhere;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Newton Board of Aldermen urges the President and Congress of the United States to take immediate action to apply pressure to the government of Sudan to end the genocide in the Darfur region;

Be It Further Resolved, that the Newton Board of Aldermen urges the Massachusetts Legislature to enact Senate Bill 2166, which would divest the Commonwealth's investment funds from companies doing business with the government of Sudan in such a way as to support or passively enable the Darfur genocide;

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed to the President, members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, other members of Congress in positions of leadership of the House and Senate and their committees with jurisdiction over foreign policy and commerce, the Governor of Massachusetts and members of Newton's delegation to the state legislature, and other leaders of the state legislature as deemed appropriate; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be posted on the official City of Newton web site.

Resolution offered by: Aldermen Parker, Burg, Linsky, Fischman, Hess-Mahan, Vance, Harney, Johnson and Danberg.

Resolution Passed Unanimously.

(SGD) R. LISLE BAKER,
President.

(SGD) DAVID B. COHEN,
Mayor.

IN RECOGNITION OF METRO DETROIT YOUTH DAY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my appreciation to Edward Deeb and the Michigan Food and Beverage Association for facilitating the yearly Metro Detroit Youth Day event. Due to the leadership of Mr. Deeb and the Michigan Food and Beverage Association, families from throughout southeast Michigan have been able to participate in a free day of fun for children for the past 24 years.

Metro Detroit Youth Day, established in 1981, has been an annual event through which families throughout the metro Detroit area have been able to come together and share a day filled with exciting activities and games. Nearly 30,000 young people are expected to take part in the 24th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day, being held on July 12, 2006, on Belle Isle.

During the long months of summer, parents often find the need to find physically and mentally stimulating activities for their children while they enjoy their summer vacations. In Metro Detroit Youth Day, students are able to enjoy a day filled with wholesome activities that help fill a need for physical education and emphasizes leadership and fair play. Additionally, children are encouraged to stay in school, say no to drugs, and learn how to treat one another with respect and dignity.

The generosity of the entire community is evident in Metro Detroit Youth Day, with thousands of metro Detroiters contributing to this event each year. More than 190 community

organizations have come together to sponsor Metro Detroit Youth Day with the help of donations from dozens of corporate sponsors that make this day possible. Additionally, more than 900 adult volunteers from throughout the community offer their services in many capacities throughout the event.

The enthusiasm and dedication of Edward Deeb and the Michigan Food and Beverage Association have combined with organizations from all over Michigan to continually give back to countless families throughout the southeast Michigan community. I am pleased to offer my appreciation to all involved in Metro Detroit Youth Day for making it an annual success.

A TRIBUTE TO BASEBALL LEGEND BOB FELLER AND THE 60TH AN- NIVERSARY OF HIS GREATEST SEASON

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD an article from yesterday's Akron Beacon Journal about a baseball legend who also happens to be one of my constituents—Hall of Famer Bob Feller. The article was written by columnist and author Terry Pluto, one of the Nation's most respected sportswriters and someone whose work I greatly admire.

Pluto's article recounts the 60th anniversary of Feller's greatest season in 1946, his first full season after serving nearly four years in the Navy during World War II. It is a story for baseball fans of all ages, and it truly reminds me of all that is good in baseball and in America. As a lifelong Cleveland Indians fan, I am honored to share Pluto's wonderful story about Feller so it is forever preserved in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ALL-STAR FOR ALL TIME HALL OF FAMER BOB FELLER PUT UP SEASON FOR AGES IN 1946

What Bob Feller did 60 years ago will never happen again. That's not a surprise, a lot has changed in baseball since 1946.

But what Bob Feller did in 1946 never should have happened at all.

Start with pitching the 36 games.

Excuse me, the 36 complete games.

That's 36 complete games in 42 starts.

For a little context, the entire American League Central Division—that's five teams, including the Indians—had 35 complete games in 2005.

So in 1946, Bob Feller finished more games than all the pitchers on all the teams in the Central Division—combined!

In 2005, the Indians had the lowest ERA in the American League, along with 10 shut-outs—the same as Feller had in 1946.

Did I mention the four saves?

Feller also pitched in relief six times, saving four games.

Just what was the premier starting pitcher in baseball doing in the bullpen?

"I started every fourth day," Feller said. "I'd rest a day after my start, then I'd throw batting practice on the second day. Other times, I'd help out in relief just to get my throwing in."

He paused.

"Know what was crazy?" he said. "When I threw batting practice, I didn't have a (protective) screen in front of me. That was crazy, because I could have gotten hurt."